

MAR 16 2003

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Please amend the claims so that the text of the amended claims read as follows:

1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

2. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, said vector having the property of being capable of expressing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 when present in a suitable host cell.

Please add new claims 3-5 as follows:

--3. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

4. (New) The isolated nucleic acid expression vector of claim 2, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

5. (New) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 2.--

RESPONSE

I. Status of the Claims

No claims have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. New claims 3-5 have been added.

Claims 1-5 are therefore presently pending in the case. For the convenience of the Examiner, a clean copy of the pending claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked up copy of the original claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.